

But only if he takes concrete action to support his words will Americans finally learn what was done in Chile—in our name, but without our knowledge.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 24, 1999]
THE 'JEWELS' THAT SPOOKED THE CIA
(By Vernon Loeb)

President Clinton's order to declassify all U.S. government documents on human rights abuses and political violence in Chile has forcefully recalled the most painful period in agency history.

It is a cautionary tale of secrets and lies, burned deep into the CIA psyche. It begins on Feb. 7, 1973, with the question that Sen. Stuart Symington put to former CIA director Richard Helms before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee:

"Did you try in the Central Intelligence Agency to overthrow the government of Chile?"

"No, sir," Helms replied.

The facts told a different story, and three months later, after an order came down asking all CIA employees to report any evidence they had of any unlawful acts, someone at Langley questioned the truthfulness of Helms's response.

His prevarication found its way into a 693-page compendium of CIA misdeeds that was being compiled by the new director of central intelligence, William Colby—a document that came to be known as "the Family Jewels."

The Family Jewels told all: of plots to assassinate foreign leaders, overthrow government, bug journalists, test psychedelic drugs on unwary subjects. And, of course, of the agency's efforts to destabilize the socialist regime of Chilean President Salvador Allende.

Colby shared the Family Jewels with Congress, the White House and, to a lesser extent, the news media. He hand-delivered a chapter to the Justice Department that directly led to Helms facing criminal charges over his Chile testimony. And Colby's revelations prompted the creation of the Senate Select Committee to Study Government Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities, known as the Church Committee after its chairman, Sen. Frank Church.

Once the committee issued its final report, the CIA's ability to do pretty much as it pleased without telling anyone was over: Both houses of Congress created standing select committees to oversee the CIA as a full-time pursuit.

To this day, Helms—who pleaded no contest in 1977 for failing to testify fully to Congress, was ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine and was given a two-year suspended sentence—remains one of the most revered figures in the secrecy-based CIA culture. (At 86, he is currently working on his memoirs.) But Colby, who died in 1996, is deeply resented by many for what is seen as betrayal.

"The first principle of a secret intelligence service is secrecy," Thomas Powers wrote in his 1979 biography of Helms, "The Man Who Kept the Secrets."

"It was bad enough this ancient history was being raked up at all, but to have it raked up in public, with all the attendant hypocrisy of a political investigation conducted by political men . . . This, truly, in Richard Helms' view, threatened to destroy the agency he and a lot of men had spent their lives trying to build."

Whether a new spirit of openness prevails at the CIA remains to be seen, at least when it comes to Clinton's declassification order on Chile. No covert action documents relating to CIA operations in Chile have yet been made public. But CIA spokesman Mark Mansfield said their release is only a matter of time.

"We're still very much in the middle of this, and we are going to be as forthcoming as possible," Mansfield said, "consistent

with protecting legitimate sources and methods."

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

A DRAFT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION RELATIVE TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 68

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following messages from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith for your immediate consideration a legislative proposal entitled the "Strengthen Social Security and Medicare Act of 1999."

The Social Security system is one of the cornerstones of American national policy and together with the additional protections afforded by the Medicare system, has helped provide retirement security for millions of Americans over the last 60 years. However, the long-term solvency of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds is not guaranteed. The Social Security trust fund is currently expected to become insolvent starting in 2034 as the number of retired workers doubles. The Medicare system also faces significant financial shortfalls, with the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund projected to become exhausted in 2015. We need to take additional steps to strengthen Social Security and Medicare for future generations of Americans.

In addition to preserving Social Security and Medicare, the Congress and the President have a responsibility to future generations to reduce the debt held by the public. Paying down the debt will produce substantial interest savings, and this legislation proposes to devote these entirely to Social Security after 2010. At the same time, by contributing to the growth of the overall economy debt reduction will improve the Government's ability to fulfill its responsibilities and to face future challenges, including preserving and strengthening Social Security and Medicare.

The enclosed bill would help achieve these goals by devoting the entire Social Security surpluses to debt reduction, extending the solvency of Social Security to 2050, protecting Social Security and Medicare funds in the budget process, reserving one-third of the non-Social Security surplus to

strengthen and modernize Medicare, and paying down the debt by 2015. It is clear and straightforward legislation that would strengthen and preserve Social Security and Medicare for our children and grandchildren. The bill would:

—Extend the life of Social Security from 2034 to 2050 by reinvesting the interest savings from the debt reduction resulting from Social Security surpluses.

—Establish a Medicare surplus reserve equal to one-third of any on-budget surplus for the total of the period of fiscal years 2000 through 2009 to strengthen and modernize Medicare.

—Add a further protection for Social Security and Medicare by extending the budget enforcement rules that have provided the foundation of our fiscal discipline, including the discretionary caps and pay-as-you-go budget rules.

I urge the prompt and favorable consideration of this proposal.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, October 26, 1999.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:20 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 754. An act to establish a toll free number under the Federal Trade Commission to assist consumers in determining if products are American-made.

H.R. 915. An act to authorize a cost of living adjustment in the pay of administrative law judges.

H.R. 2303. An act to direct the Librarian of Congress to prepare the history of the House of Representatives, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3111. An act to exempt certain reports from automatic elimination and sunset pursuant to the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995.

H.R. 3122. An act to permit the enrollment in the House of Representatives Child Care Center of children of Federal employees who are not employees of the legislative branch.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 341. Resolution expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of Senator John H. Chafee.

The message further announced the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 194. Concurrent resolution recognizing the contributions of 4-H Clubs and their members to voluntary community service.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:36 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2367. An act to reauthorize a comprehensive program of support for victims of torture.